

Occupational Safety and Health Review Board

There exists an Occupational Safety and Health Review Board composed of three (3) members appointed by the Governor. The Board consists of one (1) qualified Occupational Safety professional, one (1) qualified Occupational Health professional, and a representative of the public. The review board shall conduct hearings pursuant to Chapter 35 of Title 42 in all cases involving contests of the decision of the Director. (G.L. 28-20-19)

Hazardous Substances; Right-to-Know

All employees have a right to know about the hazardous substances to which they may be exposed in the workplace. An employer who has any of the designated substances must make a list of these substances available to any employee who may be exposed to them.

The employer must also revise and update said list annually. In addition, the employer must obtain and make available to his/her employees Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) on each substance, train his/her employees annually on the proper use of said substances, and label, tag or mark all containers of toxic or hazardous substances with the identity of the designated substance and hazard warnings.

The employer shall pay an annual assessment of forty-two dollars (\$42). (G.L.28-21)

Community Right-to-Know

Any resident of the state shall have the right to make a reasonable request for a company's hazardous substance list and MSDS from the RI Department of Labor and Training. The Department may impose a fee on the resident for each employer request; not to exceed ten dollars (\$10) per request plus photocopying cost of the list and MSDS.

SARA Title III

Under the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986, Title III provides for Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know. All businesses having hazardous substances in excess of quantities established under EPA guidelines must submit lists of these substances or MSDS to the State Emergency Response Commission, c/o the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training, the local Emergency Planning Committee, and the local Fire District. The businesses must submit a chemical inventory form containing an estimate of the maximum amount of the hazardous substances present, estimate of the average daily amount present, and the location of the hazardous substance at the facility. Inventory forms must be submitted to all three agencies annually along with lists of any new substances added to the facility's inventory. Any inquiries can be addressed to the Division of Occupational Safety, 1511 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920.

Eye Protective Devices

Every student, teacher, and visitor participating in certain vocational industrial arts and chemical-physical courses is required to wear eye protective devices furnished by such school or college and approved by the Director of Labor and Training. Regulations and standards available on request. (G.L.16-21-15)

Inspections

Inspectors from the Division of Occupational Safety shall have the right of access at all reasonable times to conduct inspections and investigations as mandated by law. (G.L.28-20-12)

Boilers

Duly Authorized Inspectors shall inspect all boilers and pressure vessels within the State, except such as are specifically exempted under Section 28-25-18.

No boiler or pressure vessel shall be erected within this state unless it shall be constructed and equipped with safety devices in compliance with the standards and rules set forth in the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code; and any person erecting or installing any boiler or pressure vessel shall forthwith notify the Division, and said Administrator shall determine if such boiler complies with the requirements of this Chapter. Upon being so satisfied, the